

~~IN THE CLAIMS~~

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please amend the claims as follows

*Sabu* Claim 2 (Twice Amended) A DNA molecule [as defined in Claim 2], having α-amylase activity which encodes the amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 1 or a functional fragment thereof having α-amylase activity.

*Sabu* Claim 3 (Twice Amended) A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity and possessing an amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 2 in which one or more amino acids are substituted, added, deleted, [inverted] translocated, or inserted such that the sequence of the substituted, added, deleted, translocated, or inserted amino acid is equivalent in activity to the amino acid sequence of Sequence No. 2.

Claim 4 (Amended)

Line 1, change "1" to --2 or 3--

Line 2, delete "through 3"